

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 23 APR 51

SUBJECT Production and Import of Pyrites in Czechoslovakia

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO 50X1-HUM
REPORT NO

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1. Shortly after the end of World War II Czech geologists were instructed to investigate possible sources of pyrites in Czechoslovakia in order to make the country more independent of western pyrites exports. In 1946 large deposits of schist in the area of Chvaletice (051/50) were surveyed and found to contain an average of about 18 percent pyrites. Until the first part of 1950 only modest attempts were made to clear the overburden and erect the necessary washing plant to extract the pyrites. Since that time, however, the project has been given the highest priority.
2. Part of the washing plant is in operation and is yielding about 2,000 tons per month. Chernopol has been told that it may count on receiving between 100,000 and 120,000 tons of pyrites from Chvaletice during 1951 and that the plant will yield as much as 200,000 tons per year when in full operation. These pyrites are believed to contain about 48 percent sulphur and to be free of arsenic and selenium and thus suitable for use by the paper and cellulose industries.
3. Present pyrite stocks on hand in Czechoslovakia are sufficient to cover three to three and one-half months requirements. The chemical industry will require a total of between 300,000 and 400,000 tons of pyrites during 1951. Of this amount 90,000 to 100,000 tons will be used by the paper and cellulose industries. In addition to about 100,000 tons which are expected to be supplied this year by the Chvaletice plant, Chernopol hopes to cover the major part of its requirements by imports as follows:

Exporting Country	Import in tons
Bulgaria	40,000
Rumania	40,000
Yugoslavia	60-70,000

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Total 335-360,000

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 Class. Changed To: TS S ☒
 Auth.: MR 70 2
 Date: 1 9 51

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4. It is unlikely that Chenapol will receive any pyrites from [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] It is not counting on any imports of [redacted] Sulphur 50X1-HUM
imports come mainly from [redacted] with minor amounts shipped by the USSR. The 50X1-HUM
Boliden ore consists of flotation pyrites needed in the flash roasting plants
at Hrusov, Usti and Kolin. The export of the [redacted] is handled by
[redacted] Only the ore imports 50X1-HUM
from Bulgaria and Rumania can be considered completely reliable since all the
other sources are in the non-Communist group.
5. The possibility is being explored of importing pyrites from the Giesche (sic)
mines in Polish Upper Silesia as was done under the German occupation during
World War II. After the pyrites were processed at chemical plants in Hrusov,
Bohumin and Prerov, the cinders, which had a large zinc content, were reshipped
to a zinc extraction plant in Poland. It seems logical, considering the current
efforts to integrate Czech and Polish industries of the Silesian area, to assume
that this method may again be used.

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